

Pronunciation of Final /-s/ and /-es/

1. The /s/ at the end of a word preceded by a voiced sound is pronounced /z/.
2. The /s/ at the end of a word preceded by a voiceless sound is pronounced /s/.

Voiced Sounds

a, e, i, o, u	b	d	g	j	l	m
n	r	v	w	x	y	*z

Voiceless Sounds

c	f	h	k	p
q	*s	t	*ch	*sh

* see below

Try these words. Determine if the /s/ at the end of these words sounds like /z/ or /s/.

1. downpours _____
2. reservations _____
3. payments _____
4. symptoms _____
5. heights _____
6. slayings _____
7. statistics _____
8. struggles _____
9. musicians _____
10. arrives _____
11. casinos _____
12. attends _____
13. pickups _____
14. incorporates _____
15. claims _____
16. please _____

*** Additionally, when the /-es/ comes after the /s/, /z/, and the following combinations, /sh/, /ch/, /ss/, /ge/, and /dge/, the pronunciation of the last syllable is / z/. Try these examples:**

1. judges _____
2. stages _____
3. watches _____
4. classes _____
5. washes _____